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31 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Juri RAUS

1. I met briefly with Juri RAUS at 1400 hours today in the Sirloin and Saddle Restaurant in Roslyn. The main purpose was to pick up from him a certification from the Bureau of Public Roads concerning his employment, in order to provide documentation for the affidavit currently being prepared for the signature of the DDCI.

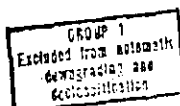
2. In connection with one of the paragraphs of the affidavit I questioned RAUS concerning the exact title of his position with the Legion of Estonian Liberation. He said that the Estonian title translated as "President" but that the Legion normally used the term "National Commander", more or less as a parallel to the title of the National Commander of the American Legion. Thus, his title would be "National Commander of the Legion of Estonian Liberation, Inc." (under the laws of the State of New York).

3. RAUS informed me that the annual meeting of the Legion would be held in Lakewood, N. J. on April 16th. At the time of last year's annual meeting he had intended to resign his post as National Commander, partially because he found that he could not keep up with all the duties involved, partially because he was somewhat losing interest in the activities, and finally because of his involvement in the HEINE case, with the distinct possibility that his relationship with the Agency would sooner or later be revealed. At that time [] had suggested to him that it might be just as well not to resign his post because it could be interpreted as an indication that he was quitting under pressure. Now however, he felt that the time had come for him to resign in order to avoid any polemics which might arise from the exposure of his relationship to the Agency. In short, he was not anxious to have anybody accuse him of being a spy or agent of CIA in the Legion.

4. He did not ask my advice on the question of resignation per se, and I stated merely that perhaps he was right and that it might indeed be as good a time as any for him to withdraw. However, I emphasized that in doing so he should be careful to couch his resignation in such a way as not to prejudice the case currently in progress. He should comport himself with dignity, and should avoid any argumentation about the HEINE case. If anyone should attempt to provoke an argument, his answer should be that he cannot comment on this case inasmuch as it is presently before the court. Further, there is no need

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for him to apologize to anyone concerning his association with the Agency while serving as National Commander. He himself knows that he acted only in the best interests of the U.S. Government as well as those of the Legion, and he has no reason to make any apologies. I urged him to prepare a brief of the statement which he would present orally to the Legion, and by all means to go over it point by point with [] prior to the meeting. Once again, I emphasized that any action which he may take in his position as National Commander should be checked out with [] to assure that the case is not being prejudiced. He assured me he would do this.

[]
C/SR/O/AC

Distribution:

- 1 - RAUS' file
- ✓ 1 - HEINE's file
- 1 - OGC
- 1 - SR/O/AC chrono

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